

FIRE THE FIRST SHOT FOR AMERICA IN WAR

Officer Who Gave Order Tells the Story of This Historic Act

MANY RACED FOR HONOR

Sammees Dragged Big Guns Through Mud by Hand to Beat Rivals

By HENRI BAZIN

Staff Correspondent of the Evening Ledger with the American Expeditionary Force

AMERICAN FIELD HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Oct. 25

The gun was so well camouflaged that six feet away no living soul could tell it was there.

It was a French seventy-five, pointed toward invaded country, as are and have been many thousands of its fellows there for many years.

The interest in it, and the reason for this writing, were in the facts that its crew were black and Sammees, and that at exactly 6:17 o'clock upon a recent October morning, its lanyard was pulled by an American gunner, launching the first hostile shot in the war defending American honor against barbarism, and the Kaiser's rule.

We stood, seven accredited correspondents in company with the American Major, who in our great other, ankle deep in rich red mud amid a driving rain. It was Sunday afternoon. Above us, upon a rise in the ground between the gun and the telephone station, stood the lieutenant commanding a youngster of perhaps twenty-two, slight, smooth-faced, brown-haired, hazel-eyed. His voice was low and musical, with the ring of a southern drawl, although he told us afterward he came from Indiana. I wish I could tell his name and the name of the gunner. But there is the censor, forbidding!

GUN PLACED BY MAN POWER

It was raining like this, only harder. We were told we could fire as soon as the gun was in position, but the mud was so thick it was impossible to pull it to this place with our horses. So, in eagerness to get on the job, the crew unthinkingly agreed to drag it by hand if I gave permission. It was some job, but the hardest job perhaps we ever tackled together. The morass was as deep as the hips and over our knees. But in the dark and the rain we turned the trick.

"Three five hundred," interrupted a voice at the phone, a voice camouflaged as was the gun.

"Three five hundred," repeated the lieutenant, "watch that bubble!"

"Ready to fire," continued the voice.

"Ready to fire," again repeated the lieutenant.

"Fire!" came the voice from the phone. And as we opened our mouths and placed dripping gloved fingers to ears the lieutenant repeated, "Fire!"

With the flash and the following bang, he resumed his story. Six times during its brief recital he interrupted to transmit a different range, the order, "Ready!" followed by "Fire!"

"We had eighteen shells, including five shrapnel. We did not wait for any range. We just shoved her nose where you see it, jammed a shrapnel home and let her fly beyond no man's land over there. We wanted to beat any other battery to it, and we did! The whole crew took part, of course, even if that lanyard was pulled by Sergeant _____ for afterward each man took the _____ We used all our shells with a given range after the first one, and then we had to phone quit for lack of ammunition. You see, we could not bring up more and the gun besides."

THEY DON'T MIND THE RAIN

We are sure glad to be here, every man. The weather is nothing. It rains every where, here or at home. We wish it were ours to stay instead of going back after a while to give way to others."

"Did you give any special order for that first shell?" I asked.

"No, sir; nothing but like that you have just heard. It was just as any other discharge and did not count for more beyond the honor of being first with a given range."

"Cease firing," came the voice from the phone.

"Cease firing," commanded the lieutenant.

"Right, sir," came from the unseen crew under the camouflage.

As we shook hands before going on, we asked the lieutenant if we could see the gunner. At a request, he came forth, a simple, clear cut, red-headed Sammee of Irish extraction, who, blushing, in modest pride, told us his name. But it is not for this time—for a later date when it is destined to be associated with the mere pulling of a 75's lanyard, but the thing significant and exemplified in the pulling.

We walked on a mile and a half through mud and water to reach the "A" quarters, where the ambulance was waiting. Here, in the only dry spot of the afternoon, we were welcomed and were welcomed by recent friends of the training camps back of the lines, as well

ALLIED COUNCIL MARKS CRUCIAL WEEK OF WAR

Victory Hinges on Plan to Link Up Allies in Huge Military Machine

LONDON, Nov. 26

The most vital week of the war began today. On the outcome of events in the last seven days may depend whether the Allies shall triumph before the spring of 1918 or the war drag further along.

This week marks the first really practical, determined effort at general unification, co-ordination and intensification of Allied action to cope with Germany's advances of geographical location and superlatively trained.

The new Inter-Allied Conference will inaugurate this effort. President Wilson's view, expressed through his delegate, Colonel House and Major General Bullard, is regarded by officials as likely to be of the utmost value in the preliminary work toward linking the Allies into one vast war machine.

The American mission has had a far-reaching effect on Allied plans. Both British and French officials have been profoundly impressed with the energy, the far-sightedness, the complete unselfishness of America's part in the war, as evidenced by these communications. Their work has served to emphasize to a remarkable degree the weighty part that United States in her efforts to win, not only in the actual fighting, but in the councils of the Allied powers. The voice of America, both in the Inter-Allied Conference and in the Paris supreme war council meeting, will be a powerful one.

The initial meetings of the Allied representatives will be devoted to discussion of military matters. First of all, there will be a critical, minute examination of the war plans in the Allied war machine. There will be the most minute search for waste, redundancy and wasteful effort, overlapping and interference are to be eliminated.

Then come plans for the future of the war on the basis of a single front. The ideal sought is a delicately balanced piece of machinery, capable of the most rapid execution of all co-ordinated plans which may be dictated by changing conditions.

Later, an part of the "war measures" of the Allies will be a general, but potent, urging of a re-statement of war aims.

The collapse of the Russian Bolsheviks' grandiose plan, indications of a return to reason throughout the world, and the progress in the "second political offensive" in Germany, all combine to make America's stand for such an Inter-Allied statement of war aims "a military measure" of the utmost importance.

SOUTH AMERICA TO GIVE NAVAL HELP TO ALLIES

PARIS, Nov. 25

Co-operation of fleets from South America will be one of the points discussed early in the sessions of the Inter-Allied Conference.

Brazil, with her splendid navy and a good merchant marine, is anxious to lend direct aid to her Allies.

Announcement was made here today that a meeting of representatives of all Allies to discuss the economic and industrial situation would be held in London soon. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Oscar T. Crosby will represent America at this conference.

The members of the American mission will continue their conference with French officials. Colonel House expected to see Premier Clemenceau this afternoon. Yesterday, although a Sunday, saw no action in the round of conferences in which all the Americans participated.

WAR AIMS REVISION MAY MEET OPPOSITION

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21

That England and France are backing an attempt to revise the war aims and at publishing any secret war treaties was hinted in authoritative quarters today.

This, however, has not discouraged the United States Government in its desire to have such a showdown, although the Paris Inter-Allied Conference may not deal with the subject directly.

Press publication of Russian state documents, showing secret diplomacy processes, gave impetus to American hopes for a frank statement. These documents revealed that Russia was to have her say in the peace council as to alignment of the eastern frontier and France was to be arbiter on the western front.

The American position is that no one nation should have the right to dictate all with respect to boundary lines on the long

MISS M'SHANE SAYS FEEDING IS OUTRAGE

Philadelphia Woman Voices Vigorous Protest in Smuggled Letter to Friend

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"I feel that every atom of American self-respect within me has been outraged," wrote Miss Elizabeth M'Shane, of Philadelphia, in a letter smuggled out of the Washington jail, after she had been forcibly fed, along with Mrs. Lawrence Lewis, of Philadelphia, and four of the other condemned prisoners, who have been hunger-stricken since their arrest.

Miss M'Shane was among the thirty-one suffragists sent to jail about two weeks ago for picketing the White House. She was on a hunger strike immediately upon being imprisoned, when her request to be treated as a political prisoner and to be allowed to see visitors, buy her own food and write and receive letters was denied.

Miss M'Shane was first forcibly fed last Friday after she had fasted from lack of food, but was unable to smuggle out her letter until today. She vividly describes her treatment at the jail in her letter to Mary Ingham, her girl friend.

Milk and eggs were found in her stomach through a tube, after which she was left in her cell all night unattended. She fainted and was found at 6 o'clock by a trustee lying on the stone floor of her cell. She says:

"I've just had the most revolting experience possible. I've been forcibly fed and I feel that every atom of American self-respect within me has been outraged. I had been seven days without food and I fainted on the floor of the cell.

"Doctor Lund came to see me, and said he would examine my heart before feeding me, as that was very important. But at 4:20 he appeared with a tube that looked like a hose, and a pint of milk in which two eggs were stirred up. Without any heart examination he put the tube into my mouth and told me to swallow it fast. I did it as fast as I could, but he pushed it down so fast that I gagged and choked horribly and my heart was beating so fast that I could not get my breath. Then he poured the liquid rapidly down the tube. I tried to bite the tube and to smother it with my hands, to check the flow for a second, but it poured on until all was finished. I then upset the material and he walked away, leaving me to die if I chose."

DRUGGISTS MUST MEET LEGALIZED STANDARDS

State Pharmaceutical Board Issues Warning in Commenting on Irregular Marketing

HARRISBURG, Nov. 26

All persons in the drug trade must conform to the standards set by the Legislature, according to an announcement made here today by the State Pharmaceutical Examining Board in connection with the publication of a list of irregularly marketed drugs.

The board says that the list of drugs sold which differ from the legal standards of strength and quality for the same, without the declaration now required appearing on the label. This practice must be stopped, according to the board.

At the last examination, eighteen of the thirty-two candidates for certification as registered pharmacists were successful and seventy-six of the applicants for papers as assistant pharmacists passed.

Successful candidates from Philadelphia district follow:

Pharmacists—Benjamin Baker, Louisa Feldman, Albert J. Haliman, Abraham J. Herman, Varian M. Kalkbrenner, Christopher Martinez, Joseph M. Mapp, Israel Shore and Harry A. Stetler, all of Philadelphia.

Assistant pharmacists—Benjamin Baker, Albert Haliman, Samuel M. Becker, Thomas J. Brennan, Helena Boers, Israel Brown, James J. Bunin, Morris Challen, Henry Chernoff, Augustin Cohen, David G. Galt, Philip Freeman, William L. Friedman, Bernard Gluck, Albert Goldberg, Aaron H. Joseph, Matthew Kramer, John L. Kelly, Adam L. Kuratowski, Abraham L. Kuznetsov, M. S. Lasker, M. M. Vinton, Milton, Edward W. Yarnall, Israel S. Zimmels, Lottie G. Zimmels, Buren Zimmels, Ida Zimmels, Joseph Zimmels, Benjamin Zimmels and Leonard Zimmels, all of Philadelphia.

WORKS NEW ORDER SWINDLE

Police Warn Merchants of Thief Who Takes Goods From Messenger

Lieutenant of Detective Theodore Wood has warned business men in the central part of the city to be on the lookout for a swindler who has been systematically victimizing merchants on take orders of goods.

The swindler, who is believed to be a messenger, has been systematically victimizing merchants on take orders of goods. The man takes the goods with the statement that the order is a copy of the order and that the messenger will be delivered to the merchant on the goods upon his return. That is the last that the merchant sees of the messenger and the goods.

Down-town merchants have suffered losses amounting to several hundred dollars in this way recently.

HELP K. OF C. FUND

HARRISBURG, Pa., Nov. 26—The Knights of Columbus of Philadelphia have launched the drive to raise \$100,000 for the construction of the \$2,000,000 war camp recreation fund.

Officers of the order are making a vigorous appeal for a generous response, urging immediate cooperation of the war and the greatest vigilance against pro-German plotting. Judge John M. Garrison presided.

Secretary of Commonwealth III

Arthur H. Wood, secretary of the Commonwealth, is in the University Hospital, under the care of Dr. Edward Martin, of 1200 Locust street. Doctor Martin said today that he expected Mr. Wood to be able to leave the hospital within two weeks.

SMOKE UP! SMOKE UP! BOOST SAMMEES' FUND

Opening of Bazaar Offers Opportunity to Send Tobacco to the Boys Abroad

Several events, which it is predicted will greatly increase the "Smokes For Sammees" fund, will take place in Philadelphia during the next few days.

The biggest affair is the Tobacco Bazaar, which opens at the First Regiment Armory today.

The bazaar, which is being conducted by a number of extra attractions have been provided, which will make it worth while, there is every indication that it will be well attended by the pleasure of those who attend to divulge at this time some of the many surprises in store for visitors. In addition to exhibits showing the tobacco industry in all its phases, the club, which will be a number of unique stunts to enliven the bazaar nightly.

Another event which will swell the treasury of the tobacco fund will be the annual show of the American Toy Dog Club, which will be held at the Bellevue-Stratford on December 8. The proceeds of this fund will be given to the overseas committee, which provides tobacco and chocolates and other goods for the Sammees.

The fund will be boosted by the Young American club with a benefit dance at the New Wharton hall, Twelfth and Wharton streets, December 6. Ten per cent of the proceeds will be turned over to "Smokes For Sammees," according to the officials of the club.

The club will enter the New Year's day numbers parade and, if it wins any cash prizes, 10 per cent will be contributed to the smoke fund. The officers of the club, which meets at Thirteenth and Reed streets, are: president, Joseph Marzocco; vice president, Charles Pisano; vice president, Nicholas Durso; secretary, John Imbarato, and Daniel Travaglini, and treasurer, Salvatore Massa.

AMBULANCE STARTS SOUTH

Gift to Former First Infantry on Way to Camp Hancock

A motor ambulance, bought with funds raised by Red Cross Auxiliary No. 24, started today from the First Regiment Armory, Broad and Callowhill streets, on a 700-mile drive to Camp Hancock, Augusta, Ga. Lieutenant Harry R. Sagar, who drove the machine, said he expected to make the trip in four days. He took with him members of the regiment who have been on recruiting duty in Philadelphia for several weeks.

The ambulance will be formally presented to the old First Regiment, now the 10th Infantry by representatives of the Red Cross as soon as it arrives at the camp.

WARTIME IS HEYDAY OF NEW YORK BURGLARS

Their Loot More Than \$1,000,000 in Few Months—Servant Girls Foil Bertillon System

NEW YORK, Nov. 26—Light-fingered denizens of the underworld, whose activities are more or less a cause of annoyance to the police department, have been improving wartime opportunities, according to reports in the hands of the Burglary Insurance Underwriters' Association. Fine residences of favorable prices, apartments of the better part of Harlem and the less sumptuous homes of the Bronx have been pilfered until an aggregate of more than \$1,000,000 has been reached.

As the facts before the underwriters' association indicate, the underwriters represent twenty-five liability and indemnity companies. Their policies are about exhausted with what they describe as an apparent growth of petty crime.

The servant girl who retouchee her fingers with a new skin preparation, the Bertillon clerks; the left-handed who have acquired such boldness that they drive their plunder through the streets in borrowed vans, are of long standing in the company's records.

The insurance detectives insist that during 1917 to date the left artists have made history for themselves, finding a day in advanced prices for silks, wools and other goods to which their fancy turns.

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SCHOOL PUPILS IN CONTEST

Hundreds of Children Writing Essays on Independence Day

Several hundred children of the elementary grades of public and parochial schools have entered the contest which is being conducted by the Walnut Street Business Association for the best essay on Independence Day.

In addition to giving a history of the famous building, the contestants must state which street the hall faces. It has been contended by some persons that the structure faces on Walnut street and that Independence square is really a front yard.

The contest ends December 1. All compositions mailed on November 30 will be accepted. Manuscripts should be sent to the Walnut Street Business Association, Bellevue Court Building, 1118 Walnut street.

THANKSGIVING Dinner

Roast Turkey Menu

Fresh Fruit Oriental or Salt Oysters Celery Olives Assorted Almonds Chicken Mulligatawny Filet de Sole au Vin Blanc Parisienne Potatoes

Roast Vermont Turkey Cranberry Sauce Potatoes Colonnade New Lima Beans Hearts of Lettuce Francaise Neapolitan Ice Cream Assorted Cakes Demitasse

(SERVED FROM 12 NOON UNTIL 9 P. M.)

12 the Cover

For Thanksgiving Dinner reservations call reservation clerk, 3000.

The Hotel Colonnade

CHESTNUT AT 15TH STREET

"Five Minutes from Anywhere"

For Thanksgiving Dinner reservations call reservation clerk, 3000.

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J. & T. COUSINS Special Price Revisions on some lines of WOMEN'S SHOES

Library Bureau In these war days, when time is the big factor—

Joseph G. Darlington & Co. Christmas and Holiday Merchandise for the Season of 1917